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THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IN EXTENSION WORK

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THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IN EXTENSION WORK*

Extension work

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Extension Work a Strong Influence on Rural Life

Extension work, still a relatively new educational development, has become a strong influence in rural life. According to surveys conducted in recent years in 15 States, more than 75 per cent of all farm families have been benefited by it and are endorsing the work. Representatives of one of the large business groups with whom some of us met in conference a few weeks ago, stated that they considered the extension workers to be the most powerful group in rural affairs. Leaders of some of the most active and important cooperative marketing associations asserted recently that much of the success of local cooperative units can be attributed to the character and quality of work done by the extension agent in the county. In these and other ways, the extension organization seems to be accepted as a permanent educational force.

In the 15 years since the passage of the Smith-Lever Act there has been a most friendly and satisfactory working relationship between the State agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture. All concerned have put their best effort into extension work. New situations have been met in a united way. The cooperation of the two agencies in presenting to the farmer the outlook for agriculture in 1929 was typical of such effort.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture assembled the facts. Intentions to plant and intentions to breed were gathered through crop reporters and the Post Office Department. The State agricultural colleges sent representatives to Washington to work with the Bureau representatives in preparing, interpreting and perfecting the outlook material. After a week of conference and study the outlook report was ready for presentation. The college representatives then returned to their respective States to organize outlook meetings for placing the facts before the farmers. It is of course still too early to see the results of this effort. It is

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DISTRIBUTION: One copy of this circular has been sent to each extension director, State supervisor, agricultural college library, and experiment station library.

my opinion, however, that it will be only a few years before outlook extension work will be one of the most powerful factors in reducing surpluses and farm losses.

An Enduring Educational Organization

The legislation extending over the last 15 years indicates rather clearly that it is the intention of the Federal Congress to make cooperative extension work one of the permanent educational organizations of the nation. The purposes and functions of our extension organization were well understood and defined when the Smith-Lever Act was under consideration in the Congress. A few quotations from the Congressional Record while the bill was pending will furnish abundant proof. The principal author and sponsor of the bill, Hon. A. F. Lever of South Carolina, said: "You can not make a farmer change the methods which have been sufficient to earn a livelihood for himself and family for many years unless you show him under his own vine and fig tree, as it were, that you have a system better than the one which he himself has been following."

Hon. John A. M. Adair, of Indiana, said:

"The itinerant teacher will be expected to give as much thought to the economic side of agriculture - the marketing, standardizing, and grading of farm products - as he gives to the matter of larger acreage yields. He is to assume leadership in every movement, whatever it may be, the aim of which is better farming, better living, more happiness, more education, and better citizenship."

Hon. Gilbert N. Haugen of Iowa, now dean of the House and chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, stressed the work with women. Here is his contribution:

"Why not also provide for education in home economics? Not simply in cooking, but in every science conducive to making home better and more attractive. If it is wise to appropriate millions of dollars annually for the study of the soil, the life of the plant, the diseases of animals, is it not of even more importance to the mothers and the housewives to know what food to give to the child and members of the family; to know the nutrition value of different foods; to know that a certain kind of food builds up the tissues of the body that others destroy; others supply heat for the body; others energy and strength; to know just how it should be fed in producing the right physical condition, good health, and longevity? Knowledge of these things is certainly of vital importance to the good health, happiness, prosperity, and the longevity of our people. It seems to me that the teaching of domestic science and the practical application of the same in the home are of great importance."

Senator Brady of Idaho said,

"The man who is on the small farm is entitled to just as much educational advantage as is the man who is on the larger farm. It seems to me that it is human beings, and not broad acres, that we are trying to educate; we are trying to improve the man, so that the man, by his

superior knowledge, may improve the farm, thus bringing added wealth to our country. I sincerely hope that we may agree on this bill and enact it into law at the earliest possible moment."

Senator Carroll S. Page of Vermont, long interested in rural education and rural betterment, foresaw our 4-H club activities:

"In my judgment, if we are to change the economic condition of our country with reference to farm life, we must commence with the boy. The father will soon pass off the stage of action, and his place will be taken by his sons; and we must in some way or other convince the boy that farming as a business, as a vocation, can not only be made equally as pleasurable as other vocations, but equally as profitable."

Development of Extension Work Follows Definite Plan

When we combine into a single statement the thoughts expressed in 1914 by these and other Congressmen, whose speeches regarding the Smith-Lever act are on record, we get a true picture of the work of our extension organization of today. With this picture in mind, the Federal Congress has followed a definite plan and policy from the beginning in establishing and developing this extension system. During the war large emergency funds were provided. Shortly after the war period, there was some contraction of funds and personnel. Soon, however, the situation became stabilized, and the supplementary Smith-Lever funds that were appropriated helped to keep the organization intact and permitted an orderly development. The period from 1924 to 1928 gave little additional appropriations for extension work from Federal sources. It was, however, a period of growth in State and local funds. It proved an opportune time for extension directors to readjust their relations with counties, to introduce economies, and to improve the quantity and quality of the work by the adoption of improved teaching methods.

In recent years we have had two additional Federal enactments for extension. The Clarke-McNary Act, through Section 5, expanded extension work to include farm forestry. In 1928 the Capper-Ketcham Act was passed authorizing annual appropriations to the States of \$1,480,000. The law contained three limitations: First, the funds shall be used for the further development of the work; second, at least 80 per cent shall be used to pay salaries of agents in counties; and third, agents so employed shall be men and women in fair and just proportion. Notwithstanding these limitations, all the States assented promptly although in many cases the assent of the Governor is yet to be confirmed by legislative action.

Members of the Federal Congress and its Agricultural Committees have kept well informed of the progress that extension is making and the legislation that has been enacted during the last 15 years has been consistent. It indicates that the Federal Congress is looking forward to a complete extension organization that will make available to every farm family the better practices in agriculture and home economics. We have made progress in carrying out the plans of the Federal Government and the

States. It has been a long pull, and it is no easier to place an agent in a new county today than it was 5 or 10 years ago. The counties not now employing extension agents are in many cases those which are less progressive and less ready to cooperate in educational work. That the local people in counties where the work is under way are well satisfied with it is indicated by the votes of the county commissioners. Their votes probably reflect the wishes of the local people more accurately than they can be determined in any other way. The following table from a recent Michigan report gives some figures concerning votes by county boards of supervisors for the past four years on the matter of extension appropriations.

Year	Number of boards voting	Measure carried	Measure lost	Total supervisors	Members voting for	Members voting against	Members absent	Boards voting unanimously
1925..	54	51	3	1,321	1,126	155	40	32
1926..	54	51	3	1,369	1,159	107	103	33
1927..	57	56	1	1,454	1,336	89	29	38
1928..	66	63	3	1,569	1,368	133	68	40

States in Accord with Federal Program

The States seem to be in accord with the Federal program. The original Smith-Lever Act was promptly approved by all of them. Not only have they appropriated sufficient funds to offset the Federal appropriations, but they have increased their expenditures so that they are now spending \$1.64 of State and county funds for every dollar provided from Federal sources.

Forestry extension work under the Clarke-McNary Act is now under way in 29 States, with two States as well as Hawaii and Porto Rico on the waiting list for Federal aid.

The Capper-Ketcham Act was readily accepted by all the States. In fact, the action of the States in all matters relating to appropriations and expansion of the extension work seems to indicate that State and Federal Governments are in absolute accord and agreement as to the place extension work in agriculture and home economics shall occupy in the field of education.

Out of the pioneer educational work of this organization is slowly emerging a profession with public recognition. Already the Employees' Compensation Act of the Federal Government has been extended to county extension agents and their supervisors who have Federal appointment. A number of the States are providing for leave of absence for study and

and improvement, and more States are arranging for a summer vacation of 30 days. Several States are employing their State extension workers on a 9 or 10 1/2 month basis, the same as the teaching and research staff of the college.

At this time we need to take stock and to revise our plans. In this way we can put renewed energy and enthusiasm into the completion of the task that has been done so well up to this time. Additional States each year are considering legislation and appropriations that will make possible the payment of salaries of county extension agents exclusively from public funds. In some instances the effort has been made to authorize such payment to be made wholly from Federal and State funds. This is another indication of the place that extension work has made for itself in the educational affairs of the Nation.

In the early years we attacked the expansion program with earnestness and enthusiasm. As a result, there are today agricultural agents in 2,237 out of the 2,900 rural counties in the United States. There are home demonstration agents in 1,190 counties, and boys' and girls' club agents in 168 counties. If we are to complete the system, we must use the same earnestness and enthusiasm which characterized the earlier expansion of the work. It still requires some of the same pioneer spirit, perseverance, and determination to place an agent in a new county. The way to place new agents is to go out and convince the public of the benefits to be derived from their employment.

Mid-West Confronted with Difficult Problem

The Mid-West, with its large States and its large number of agricultural counties, has had a difficult problem. The satisfactory work that has resulted in the employment of 1,190 home demonstration agents in the United States is most gratifying, but the employment of home demonstration agents has not kept pace with the employment of county agricultural agents. There have been reasons for this retarded development. Money from State and Federal sources has been lacking in the past, but today the situation is changed. A study of the extension budget for this area shows ample funds for immediate expansion. The increase of county home demonstration agents that has taken place in a few of the States indicates that the home demonstration program is gaining momentum. Let us see what progress we have made in the last year.

County extension agents and assistants employed
on March 31, 1928, and March 31, 1929, with increases during the year

	East	South	Mid-West	West	Hawaii	United States
Agricultural:						
1928.....	289	1,027	824	294	-----	2,434
1929.....	306	1,091	862	319	4	2,582
Increase.....	17	64	38	25	4	148
Home demonstration:						
1928.....	180	626	132	73	-----	1,011
1929.....	214	739	181	102	2	1,238
Increase.....	34	113	49	29	2	227
Club:						
1928.....	86		24	18	-----	128
1929.....	119		57	17	-----	193
Increase.....	33		33	- 1		65
Totals:						
1928.....	555	1,653	980	385	-----	3,573
1929.....	639	1,830	1,100	438	6	4,013
Increase.....	84	177	120	53	6	440

Four pieces of Federal legislation entered into this increase of 148 county agricultural, 227 home demonstration, and 65 club agents during the year. These, in order of their importance, were the Capper-Ketcham Act, making \$20,000 additional available to each State on July 1, 1928; the \$280,000 additional carried in the supplemental Smith-Lever appropriation this year; the \$400,000 special flood-relief appropriation available to the lower Mississippi Valley States; and the extension of the Smith-Lever and Capper-Ketcham Acts to Hawaii. For the year beginning July 1, 1929, the Capper-Ketcham funds will be increased by \$500,000, the supplemental Smith-Lever funds will remain the same, but the special flood-relief item will be no longer available. With this appropriation several States in the 1927 flood region have temporarily relieved counties of their part of the burden of carrying agents and in some cases have placed agents in counties where they were not previously employed, paying salaries entirely from this fund. This accounts for some of the increase in agents in the South, not all of whom may be retained when the special appropriation is no longer available, but there was a substantial gain during the year in Southern States which did not have the advantage of this fund. As an instance of Southern progress, South Carolina has a new law authorizing a State appropriation of not to exceed \$2,000 for each of two agents in each county of the State.

Expansion of Home Demonstration Work and Boys' and Girls' Club Work Needed

In the North Central group of States there was an increase of 38 county agricultural, 49 home demonstration, and 33 club agents. That was an increase of 37 per cent in home demonstration agents, but we still have nearly five times as many men as women agents. The disparity is still far too great. The way has been prepared in some States for further progress, and we know that 1929 will show a material increase over the 181 women we now have. We are a long, long way from the goal, a county agricultural and a home demonstration agent in every agricultural county, but we are moving toward it.

The discussion of the Capper-Ketcham Act before the Congress indicated clearly that the expansion of the 4-H boys' and girls' club program was contemplated in the increased appropriation. The national enrollment in 1928 showed an increase of 46,000 club members over 1927. The real test of the effect of this act on the club movement will be indicated when the figures for 1929 are completed. If there was any doubt about the place of the club movement in the extension program before 1928, there can be no doubt about it now. It may not be advisable to establish a general policy regarding the employment of an agent in a county to devote full time to the boys and girls, but it is necessary at this time to see that each agent devotes a fair share of his or her time to work with young people. The enrollment in the Central States shows that the average enrollment in 1927 per agent by States varied from 110 to 375. If we could organize the extension programs in the counties so that the minimum enrollment by any agent would be 125 members, the increase in total enrollment would be much greater than it has been in the years just passed.

[illegible]

1. State of the world - World population and growth
 2. World population - World population and growth

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 1952 年 1 月 1 日 至 1952 年 12 月 31 日止

1. The first of the two is the *documentary* or *historical* type, which is the most common and the most useful. It is the type that is most often used in the study of the history of the world, and it is the type that is most often used in the study of the history of the United States.

4. For the following, write a true or false statement.

From: Bob Mack and Richard Hill

Constant Need for Adjustment

The strength of the extension movement lies in its ability to shift the emphasis quickly to meet existing needs. Have we shifted rapidly enough? We are now in the ninth year of agricultural depression. Have we given enough attention to problems of economy of production, reduction of labor costs, readjustment of farm business, use of outlook material, helping the farmer to market his product at a profit? We have done much along these lines -- more than we get credit for in some quarters -- but there is still much to do. Let us recall again for a moment the quotation from Congressman Adair that I read to you at the beginning of this paper: "The itinerant teacher (that is, the extension agent) will be expected to give as much thought to the economic side of agriculture as he gives to the matter of larger acreage yields."

The Illinois farm-record studies, the use of outlook material in some of the States, the progress of cooperative marketing in some sections and in some commodities -- these and other projects are suggestive. But we must do much more. We can not expect immediately to make all our county agents authorities on the use of economic material, but we must do all we can to train them in that field. Many of the States need to strengthen their staffs of economic and marketing specialists. Possibly some Federal aid in that field, as we have it in farm forestry extension, might be helpful.

These suggestions and comments are presented to bring to you the problems of administration that are before us. In the expenditure of extension funds there is a constant need for readjustment, on the basis of studies and results obtained. Wise budgeting and readjustment will maintain the effective educational work that has been done. Should we make from time to time a careful study to determine the results obtained in order that the extension funds may give the greatest return? Are there new projects that should be substituted for those that have served their purpose? Are there new methods in extension which will increase the efficiency of the extension forces? These are questions we must answer.

Problems such as these make the extension task interesting. The public is more solidly behind us than ever before. Our job must be done in a way to deserve its continued confidence and support.

